

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03373 272159Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05

PC-01 TRSE-00 OPR-02 SY-05 /081 W

-----075841 272202Z /62

P R 272141Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 531

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3373

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: STUDENTS TAKE OVER LA PAZ UNIVERSITY

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING A REJECTION OF A SUTDENT
ULTIMATUM TO AUTHORITIES TO SURRENDER CONTROL OF LA PAZ UNIVERSITY,
A GROUP OF LEFTIST STUDENTS SEIZED THE INSTITUTION ABOUT
2:00 PM APRIL 27 AND EXPELLED THE GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED
UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES FROM THEIR OFFICES. THE GOB, WHICH
HAD PUBLICLY WARNED AGAINST SUCH A PROVOCATION ON APRIL 26,
IS NOW FACED WITH WHAT ACTION TO TAKE AGAINST THE STUDENT
PROVOCATION. THE UNIVERSITY TAKEOVER MAY BE THE
FIRST STAGE OF A STUDENT PLAN TO INCITE VIOLENCE DURING
THE MAY DAY WEEKEND. FOR THE MOMENT THE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS
ARE OPEN AND THE SITUATION REMAINS PEACEFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. A GROUP OF LEFTIST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, POSSIBLY ACTING IN
CONJUNCTION WITH SOME LEFTIST UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, TOOK OVER
THE 18,000 STUDENT UNIVERSITY OF SAN ANDRES THE AFTERNOON
OF APRIL 27 AND EXPELLED THE GOB APPOINTED RECTOR AND VICE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03373 272159Z

RECTOR FROM THEIR OFFICES. STUDENT ACTION CAME ONLY TEN
DAYS AFTER BEGINNING OF SEMESTER AND FOLLOWED SEVERAL DAYS OF
STEADILY GROWING TENSION AT THE UNIVERSITY. ONLY DAY BEFORE,
THE STUDENTS, ORGANIZED INTO A SUPREME STUDENT/FACULTY COUNCIL,
HAD DEMANDED THAT THE RECTOR AND VICE-RECTOR TURN OVER THE
UNIVERSITY TO THE CONTROL OF THE COUNCIL.

3. RECTOR ROLANDO SAHONERO TOLD EMBOFFS APRIL 26 THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT ABOUT 100 EXTREMIST STUDENTS, ASSISTED BY ABOUT 150 SYMPATHIZERS, AND WORKING WITH SOME LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN THE FACULTY, WOULD TRY TO TAKE OVER THE UNIVERSITY. SAHONERO ADDED THAT THE STUDENTS WERE BEING GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE BY THE PARTIDO OBRERO REVOLUCIONARIO, AN EXTREME LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTY. SUB-SECRETARY OF INTERIOR WALTER RIOS TOLD POL/ECOM COUNSELOR SAME DAY THAT STUDENT ELEMENTS OF THE POR, THE PEKING LINE COMMUNISTS AND OTHER EXTREME LEFT STUDENT GROUPS WERE ORGANIZING VIOLENCE IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING MAY DAY CELEBRATION AND THAT THE MORE MODERATE STUDENT ELEMENTS WERE LOSING OUT. RIOS SAID RECENTLY RETURNED LEFTIST EXILES WERE ORGANIZING THE STUDENTS AND THAT THEY WERE AMPLY FINANCED.

4. INTERIOR MINISTER JIMENEZ, IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING PROSPECTS OF A CLASH, PUBLISHED ON APRIL 27 A STATEMENT QUOTE IN RECOGNITION THAT EXTREMIST ELEMENTS THAT TOOK PART IN UNFORTUNATE EVENTS WHICH THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN (THIS REFERS TO THE RECENTLY RETURNEE POLITICAL EXILES) ARE TRYING TO TURN THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN ANDRES INTO A BATTLEFIELD WITH THE EXPRESSED PURPOSE OF CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE THAT MAY AFFECT THE SOCIAL PEACE, THE ELECTION PROCESS AND CITIZEN SAFETY, BY INSTIGATING A CONFRONTATION BY A SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS AGAINST THE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES, IN OPEN PROVOCATION OF THE LEGAL ORDER AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES. IN THE FACE OF SUCH A THREAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 03373 272159Z

IT IS ANNOUNCED THAT IF ACTIONS AGAINST THE CURRENT LEGAL ORDER, THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY AND THE SOCIAL PEACE TAKE PLACE, CORRECTIVE ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN WITH THE SEVERITY THAT THE SITUATION WARRANTS. UNQUOTE.
BOEKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT GROUPS, PARTY YOUTH WING, CIVIL DISORDERS, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ03373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780181-0028
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780410/aaaaaieq.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3e46b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2816204
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENTS TAKE OVER LA PAZ UNIVERSITY
TAGS: PINT, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3e46b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014